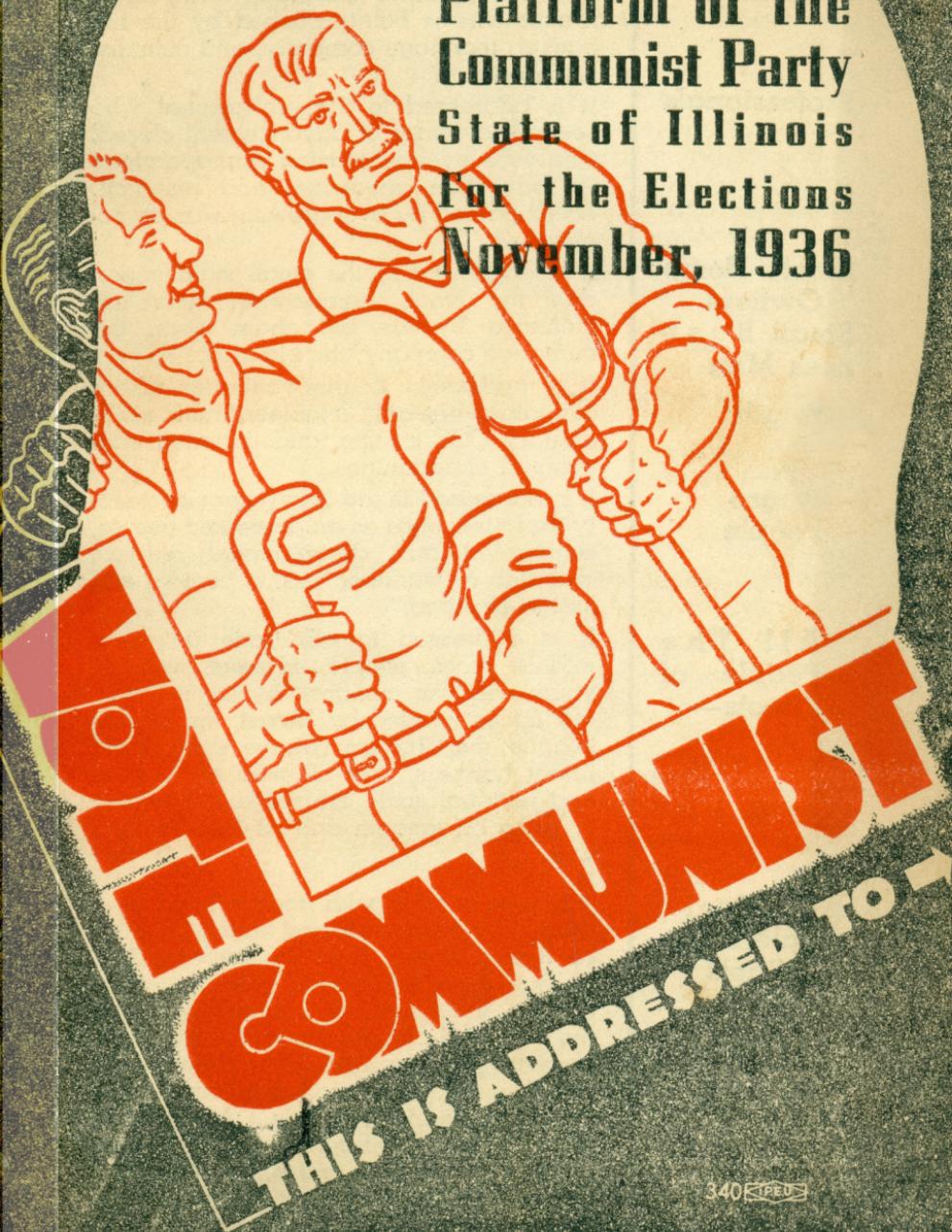




Platform of the
Communist Party
State of Illinois
For the Elections
November, 1936



FOR
THE
COMMUNIST

THIS IS ADDRESSED TO →

. . . the great bulk of the people of Illinois.

—Workers

It is addressed in the first place to the worker who faces a future of insecurity, unemployment, a constantly rising cost of living, speed-up, loss of job.

—Farmers

It is addressed to the small and middle farmer who is being crushed by the big banker, mortgage company, and commission house.

Professionals

It is addressed to the professional who sees all avenues of advancement closed, who sees ever-decreasing appropriations for education, medicine, and research, accompanied by ever-growing war appropriations.

Small Home Owners

It is addressed to the small storekeeper, and the small home-owner who are menaced by the big chain store, the mortgage company, the big trust.

Small Busi- ness Men

It is addressed to the youth for whom capitalism has only a jobless future, semi-military CCC camps, and curtailed educational opportunities.

—Youth

It is addressed to the Negro people; doubly exploited, once as an oppressed people, segregated and discriminated against, and then as workers, "first to be fired and last to be hired."

—Negro People

It is addressed to all, trade unionists, middle class people, farmers, women, youth who are menaced by the reactionary forces typified by Hearst, the Liberty League, the Chicago Tribune, the LaSalle Street bankers, and all who on a local and national scale are working overtime to bring on fascism and its twin brother, war.

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The Real Rulers of Illinois

• Illinois is ruled with an iron hand by a group of industrialists and financiers, such as Sewell Avery, Fred W. Sargent, D. F. Kelly, the McCormick family, Silas Strawn, the Fields, and others, who use the state and city government to cut relief, pass the sales tax, attack the trade unions, wreck the schools, and threaten all the civil liberties of the people. At the same time they use their control of the government to protect their profits, pass the sales tax, and block passage of a State income tax.

The Two Party System— A Shell Game

La Salle Street Servants

The Republican Liberty League Menace

- For years the Democratic and Republican parties have been able to dupe the people by setting themselves before them as the only parties to choose between. What are these parties? What is their program? Whom do they serve?
- The Democratic Party of Illinois is the Party that has passed the 3% sales tax and then cut relief. It is the Party that under Courtney has raided the trade unions, that censors the stage and allows vice to run rampant, that is pursuing a steady school wrecking program. It is the Party of Robert Sweitzer who defrauded the County of Cook of hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars, and then went unpunished. It is the Party of Kelly, the income tax evader, the looter of the public treasury thru the old game of manipulating public contracts. It is the Party of Horner who has repeatedly used the National Guard to break strikes, and the military and police to terrorize the unemployed, as at the time of the 1933 Hunger March.
- The Republican Party today is the Party of the most openly reactionary, anti-labor forces in the country.
- It was a Republican governor, Louis L. Emmerson, who in the beginning of the crisis refused to approve relief appropriations until his advisors told him that relief would be cheaper than calling out the National Guard. "Big Bill" Thompson, the last Republican Mayor of Chicago, looted the treasury and broke strikes with the same brutal hand that Kelly uses.
- In the coming elections reaction is centered around the Republican-Liberty League-Hearst combination. Their victory would mean a tremendous set-back for the working class in this country and internationally. It would increase the danger of war, it would mean an intensified attack on the trade unions, it would mean a further increase in the burden of taxation on the mass of the people, it would mean the shutting off of relief, it would be a grave blow to the present civil liberties won by the masses.

Roosevelt No Barrier to Reaction

• The fascist threat from this source is immediate and real. To meet this threat the need of unity, and in the first place unity of the working class is urgent.

• Masses of the people sensing the menace of fascism are turning to Roosevelt hoping that he will bar the way to the triumph of reaction. The Communists, however, point out that Roosevelt is no barrier, that he is giving way to the Liberty League on the issue of taxation, of relief, war, minimum wage laws, etc.; that in spite of all his fine talk he accepts meekly the autocratic rule of the Supreme Court which nullifies every attempt at social legislation by Congress that is forced from it by pressure of the masses.

ONLY INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ACTION THROUGH THE BUILDING OF A FARMER-LABOR PARTY, ONLY THE ELECTION OF A BLOC OF FARMER-LABOR CANDIDATES, ONLY A LARGE VOTE FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY CAN CURB THE SUPREME COURT AND PASS SOCIAL LEGISLATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MASSES.

For Unity of the Masses

The Communist Party of Illinois has proposed to the Socialist Party, the trade unions, and all Farmer-Labor forces to unite in defense of the most elementary economic and political rights of the people, regardless of difference in final program. The best means to this would be to help build a mighty and unconquerable Farmer-Labor Party in Illinois. Ohio, Michigan, Iowa, California, and Connecticut have taken great strides forward along the path of a Farmer-Labor Party, and there is every indication that such parties will appear on the November ballot. In many other states the movement is fast progressing to the point where they too will have such Farmer-Labor tickets for the fall elections. And likewise in our own state of Illinois the Farmer-Labor movement is sweeping forward. Stringent election laws, however, require tens of thousands of signatures to be obtained in a few weeks time in order to put a "minority" party on the ballot. Therefore, in order to avoid possibility of further delay resulting in no independent working class ticket on the ballot, the Communist Party is putting forward a full slate for the November elections. It is doing this in the fullest confidence that in this way it best defends the interests of the working population. Wherever local Farmer-Labor tickets in various

localities may assume a wide mass movement, the Communist Party will not hesitate to withdraw its candidates and throw its full support behind such Labor tickets.

Do Not Waste Your Vote!

If elected to office, whether in Springfield, or Washington, the Communist Party representatives would utilize their position to expose the demagogery and reaction of the old time politicians. They would push forward and popularize bills like the Frazier-Lundeen Social Insurance bill, the Connery 30 hour bill, the Marcantonio Public Works Bill, and all progressive measures that would defend the interests of the people against the onslaught of Capital. They would stand at the head of mass movements outside the legislative halls to enforce more powerfully the will of the people.

Do not waste your vote by voting Democratic or Republican! Vote Communist!

Our Demands for This Election

We Communists openly proclaim that only a Workers' and Farmers' Government, one that would socialize the great steel mills, packing houses, banks, factories and railroads, can effect a real and lasting solution of our problems. Such a government would follow the example of the Soviet Union, where the means of production and distribution were taken out of the control of a small group of greedy monopolists and taken over by the working class to be run for the benefit of the broad masses. Such a government would eliminate unemployment, crises, misery and the waste of capitalism, would make full use of the achievements of science, would secure a comfortable standard of living in our rich highly developed country for all, almost overnight.

However, we believe that the great masses of the people, even if not yet ready for such a full Communist program can and must act upon a program which would alleviate immediately the sufferings of the masses today.

Such a program would have as its aim to beat back the threat of fascism in our state and country just as the masses are doing in France and Spain! It would meet the worst hardships of unemployment by a wide system of social insurance, it would tax the rich and not the poor, it would pass minimum hours and wage laws, it would be the first step in the struggle for a socialist reconstruction of the country.

With this aim in mind the Communists of Illinois call upon the workers, farmers, and middle classes, in the absence of a strong Farmer-Labor Party to unite behind the Communist Party on the basis of the following planks:

PLANKS

1. Wages and Working Conditions

For the 6 hour day, 5 day week with no reduction in total weekly earnings. For the outlawing of company unions; the enforcement of adequate health and factory legislation; for an improved workmen's compensation law; the outlawing of child labor; and a minimum hour law for women.

2. Relief and Social Insurance

For the passage of a state unemployment insurance bill modelled on the Frazier-Lundeen bill pending in Congress, to provide insurance to all workers without discrimination, and at the expense of the government and employers. For the restoration of all relief cuts, and the continuation of State and Federal relief.

3. Public Works Program

For a union scale of wages on all public works, with a guarantee of a 30 hour week. Immediate slum clearance, and the building of apartments to be rented at low rentals. Immediate building of schools, playgrounds, nurseries, and hospitals in all working class neighborhoods.

4. In Defense of Civil Liberties

For enforcement of democratic rights of free speech, assembly, and petition; for the right to strike, picket, and organize; against the use of injunctions in strikes and labor disputes.

For the repeal of the criminal syndicalist act, which is used against labor in times of strike, unemployed struggles, and political activity of the working class.

Against the use of private gunmen or armed guards in strikes; against the use of the National Guard or the State Highway Police as strike-breakers; for the abolition of all special squads of police, such as "industrial" or "Red" squads, which are used against the trade union and political movements of the workers.

For full civil rights and no discrimination against the foreign born.

5. In Defense of Negro Rights

For the opening of all opportunities of employment to Negroes equally with whites, for equal rights to skilled jobs in all trades, public utilities, and municipal services at equal pay with whites. For equal rights in the professions. The Communist Party fights for full social, economic and political equality for Negroes, and leads the struggle for the right of self-determination in the Southern Black Belt.

6. Taxation Program and Fight Against High Cost of Living

Tax the rich; lift the burden from the shoulders of the workers and "small" man. For a steeply graduated tax on corporate incomes and personal incomes above \$5,000 a year; for a heavy tax on corporate surpluses; for a capital levy on the big trusts and monopolies; for strict enforcement of personal property and real estate taxes on the Harvester family, the Armours, Swifts, Cranes, etc.

FOR IMMEDIATE REPEAL OF THE SALES TAX.

Protection of small homeowner. No taxes on small homes of \$5,000 valuation or under. Against evictions of workers' families.

Drastic reduction in gas, light, and phone rates; reduction of all street-car, elevated, and bus fares to 5 cents, and a universal transfer system.

7. Program for Small and Middle Farmer

For producer-consumer cooperatively-owned distributing agencies of all agricultural products lowering prices to city workers, and raising the income to farmers at the expense of the bankers and monopolists.

For exemption from taxes of homes and homesteads of \$5,000 valuation or less; for cancellation of food and seed loans made to small farmers before 1935; for low rate rural electrification; for adequate relief in rural counties; for extended mortgage moratorium.

For extension of present price to all "base" milk; for honest tests and adequate compensation for diseased dairy cattle.

8. For the Protection of the Youth

For provisions by the State of vocational training and jobs at union wages pending the passage of the American Youth Act by Congress. For a public works program to include sport fields, skating and swimming pools, clean bathing beaches, giving free accommodation to all youth clubs, sport and dancing clubs, without discrimination.

For free lunches and carfare for school children of unemployed.

9. Schools and Teachers

For a free public school education for every child from kindergarten through university, with a full school day, a full school year of not less than 180 days, and class enrollment not to exceed 30, with special provision for exceptional children.

Payment in full of state obligation to elementary schools, delinquent for past 5 years; state wide tenure for teachers,

and adequate pensions for all teachers in state; opposition to all attacks on right of academic freedom, such as loyalty oaths, censorship of social science textbooks, interference with right to organize.

10. Against War and Fascism

For support of peace policy of Soviet Union. For abolition of the ROTC in the schools. Against military war appropriations by the State, such as the building of armories, and the diversion of such funds for the benefit of the unemployed. Keep America out of war by fighting to keep war out of the world.

11. For the Calling of a Constitutional Convention

For calling of a constitutional convention to amend state constitution to provide for adequate unemployment, old age, maternity, and health insurance, and to permit a State income tax on the wealthy.

ILLINOIS CANDIDATES COMMUNIST PARTY

Eugene Bechtold	United States Senator
Sam Hammersmark	Governor
Ernest Clarence Jones	Lieutenant-Governor
Lydia Oken	Secretary of State
Archibald Henderson	Auditor of Public Accounts
Warren O. Lamson	State Treasurer
Claude Lightfoot	Attorney General
John Wright	Trustee, University of Illinois
Charles Schultz	Trustee, University of Illinois
Delbert Eugene Earley	Trustee, University of Illinois
Frank Mucci	Congressman-at-Large
Morris Childs	Congressman-at-Large

Communist Party Election Committee
208 N. Wells St., Room 201, Chicago

I wish to receive other election material and enclose as my contribution to help defray expenses of publishing and mailing.

Name Address